

Approved

March 12, 2014
The Compass School Council
Minutes
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

AGENDA

Call to order: Elizabeth Allen, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:08pm

Roll Call of Members Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Dina Mandeville (DM), Heidi Vasquez (HV) Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD), Michelle Clifford (MC) and Rick Rhodes (RR)

Absent: Charlie Weygand (CW) and Marisa Gallagher(MG)

Also present: Michael Obel-Omia, Interim Director

Approval of minutes

RR motions to approve the January 29, 2014 Minutes.

HD seconds.

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

HD motions to approve the January 29, 2014 Executive Session minutes.

RR Seconds.

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

MC motions to approve the February 12, 2014 Minutes

HV seconds

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

Development/Treasurers

- Treasurer Report
 - Bank statements look to be in order.
 - New signatories paperwork in place with dual signature levels
- Development Committee
 - No committee meetings held
 - Copy of capital campaign letter sent to Learning Committee for review and edits regarding middle school.

Site Maintenance

Site Committee meeting 2/25/14

- See maintenance items list attached
 1. Greenhouse
- Got quote for heater install
- Considering propane
 1. Ease/cost of install
 2. Energy monitoring
 3. Open Permits
- Working with town to square away
 1. open permits in main building
 2. Unpermitted work by previous owner to the barn

Items to address this spring:

1. Farmhouse
 - Gate or sign at the end of the farmhouse driveway
 - Sump hole in basement by exterior door
 - Check and possibly reconnect main electrical panel feeds
 - Doors to close off crawlspaces in basement
 - Glass door to main office inside front door
 - Courtyard
2. Brush clearing/planting
3. Slate pavers
 - Garden
 - Alpaca shed
4. Main Building
 - Airlock at front door
 - Dormer leak
 - Railings
 - Security
 - a) Cameras
 - b) Locks on exterior classroom doors
5. Green House
 - Get heat running
 - Propane tank and plumbing
 - Wire heater?
6. Grounds
 - Collaborate with URI landscape architecture for planting plan
 - Clear and mark hiking/running/nature trail through woods

Recommendations to Council:

- Hire a part time maintenance person
- Barn/Classroom project

Co-op Report

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- There was no meeting for the month of February.
- The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19th at the school.
- Educational and community vendors are being secured for the Eco-Fair
- Activities are being decided upon for the Eco-Fair.
- The Silent Auction has received some donations already.
- The Swim Club will be starting its 5-week program this month.

Learning

- The following letter was sent out to the community on March 6th about our first meeting on March 19th at 3:30.
- We've had three parents respond so far with a brief description of their experiences and expertise. Harlyn and Nikki are also planning on serving on the committee.
- Our first committee meeting will focus on communicating the strengths of our current program to share with the development committee. We will also discuss and plan for the next step, which will be to conduct a review of literature and research on middle school education, with a particular focus on the role of and best practices in project-based learning at the middle school level.

March 6, 2014

Dear Compass Community,

We are looking for members of the community that have knowledge of and expertise with middle school students to serve on The Learning Committee. We anticipate meeting about four times between now and June. The council has charged this committee with communicating what makes our middle school unique and creating a vision for the future of our middle school program (Investigators and Navigators). Our middle school has been ranked first of all public middle schools in the state. This committee will serve to reflect on and communicate the strengths of our current program and look ahead to the future of our middle school program as we raise funds to design and create a space more suitable for learning at the middle school level. During our time on the committee we will:

- Examine educational research about learning for middle school age students
- Review educational models of middle school programs with similar philosophies

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- Gather evidence and examples about the strengths of our current program
- Make recommendations for changes to our middle school program that can be implemented and realized within a new building/space

Our first meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 19th at 3:30** in the multipurpose room. If you are interested in serving on this committee, but are unable to make this meeting time, please contact us.

Heidi Vazquez (Discoverer Teacher) and Hilary Downes-Fortune (Navigator Teacher) will chair this committee.

Please email us at discovererteachers@yahoo.com and navigatorteachers@yahoo.com

if you are interested in serving on this committee.

More about the Learning Committee

From the Bylaws: *The Learning Committee is responsible for shaping and monitoring curriculum. The board of this committee will be comprised of faculty members as well as parents with special interests and applicable skills and training in the areas of development in any of the learning areas.*

Each committee will be chaired by a member of The Compass School Council, and should include representation of teaching staff and families. The Committee structure includes the potential for invited members for the broader community including Non-Profit Sponsoring Agency and others who have expressed interest. While we welcome the participation of community members who do not have children enrolled at The Compass School, their involvement on committees must be approved by a vote on The Compass School Council.

We hope you will consider serving on this committee.

In partnership,

Heidi and Hilary

Search

HDF Motions to accept committee reports.

RR Seconds.

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Director's Report (MOO)

March 2014

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." ~Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

Dear Friends,

As you know, we have experienced quite an exciting winter, filled with more snow than we need and postponing (can't call it canceling, since we shall make up those days in June—and maybe July, at this rate!) school four times thus far since January. T.S. Eliot opined that April is the cruelest month, but anyone who slogged through this February in Washington County may disagree with the prolific poet.

In spite of the many delays and postponements—or, mayhap, because of their focusing us—a great deal has occurred since our last meeting. Primarily, there has been a great deal of collaboration with local and state agencies, primarily the fabulous University to our southwest. Each year, through the Mentor/Tutor Internship Program (MTI), several students from URI volunteer in our classrooms. This year, each Step has at least one student working in the classroom, and we are benefitting from the undergraduate students' energy and enthusiasm. Graduate students from the Couples and Family Therapy Clinic have worked with Ms. Diane to assist students, counseling them, as they work their way through challenges. And speaking of the trials and tribulations of maturing, Ms. Diane has arranged for professionals from URI's Child Anxiety Program to speak to our community on Monday, 24 March about anxiety in children. URI is also providing the space for our Arts Night, which will occur this Thursday evening. The Center for Biology and Life Sciences (CBLs), a beautiful new space, will provide an ennobling backdrop for our evening of art celebration.

Our collaborating continues, as next week, we shall co-host with Kingston Hill Academy an evening for parents to learn more about the Common Core. We are also collaborating with Kingston Hill Academy concerning transportation for next year. The Discoverers collaborated with our local Lutheran Church, the Church of the Good Shepherd, on the last day before Winter Break for their Project Share, which celebrated social responsibility and ended up raising more than \$500 for the Rhode Island Community Foodbank. North Kingston High School senior, Robert Rocchio, will work with our Investigators and Navigators to run a running club, culminating in a road race for the students involved. Of course, daily, we collaborate with Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), and that has been most manifest in our working with Alyson Beatty, who is an expert in teacher evaluation and visited two weeks ago and will have come again by this meeting. We will also have worked with the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, attending its conference at Rhode Island College. Ms. Nikki, an Investigator Instructor, has a Rhode Island College Student serving as a teaching intern in her room as well. Finally, Jessica Wurzbacher from Oliver Hazard Perry, Education at Sea Program, will

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speak to Navigators about sailing on the ship this summer. Finally, this week, we collaborated with the CDC on a Health and Wellness Review

So, as we plan to work in the Green House and to plant vegetables and flowers, we are making the best of our times, in spite of the worst of the weather.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Obel-Omia

Steve Nardelli addressed the council on the topic of the role of the League of Charter Schools.

Calendar - Proposed change of Monday after Eco-fair from professional day to regular school day.

MC motions to approve changing the Monday after Eco-Fair (Monday May 19, 2014) to a regular school day.

RR seconds

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Maternity leave – Approve modification of business manager’s leave arrangements.

MC motions to approve exchanging the business manager’s week of leave prior to the birth of her child for a week of work from home. We understand that there is no need for work from home following the maternity leave as previously approved.

HV Seconds

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Salary /Sustainability

Council received notes from the salary committee meetings. Motions/discussion will happen at a future meeting.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Announcements

March 26, 2014 League of Charter Schools is holding a meeting for board trainings.

7:32 PM Adjourn